

APPROVED  
09/14/2015

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Senate Executive Committee  
Minutes  
Monday, August 24, 2015

Present: Chair Gay Miller, Vice Chair Kim Graber, Abbas Aminmansour, Michael Bohlmann, Nicholas Burbules, Bettina Francis, John Hart, Matthew Hill, Calvin Lear, William Maher (phone), Anita Mixon, Kathryn Oberdeck, David O'Brien, Michael Sandretto, Matthew Wheeler

Guests: Acting Chancellor Barbara Wilson, Associate Chancellor Reginald Alston, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Policies Abbas Benmamoun, Student Body President Mitch Dickey, Associate Provost for Administrative Affairs Katherine Galvin, Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs Robin Kaler, Campus Faculty Association Representative Richard Laugesen, Student Trustee Jaylin McClinton, African American Studies Professor Erik McDuffie, Director of McKinley Health Center Dr. Robert Palinkas, Religion Professor Bruce Rosenstock, Philosophy and Classics Professor Kirk Sanders, History Professor Mark Steinburg, Academic Human Resources Director Deb Stone

Media: Daily Illini – Maggie Sullivan, Inside Illinois – Mike Helenthal, News-Gazette – Julie Wurth, WDWS – Tim Ditman

A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:10 pm on Monday, August 24, 2015 in 232 English Building, with Chair Miller presiding.

**1. Introductions**

Introductions were made.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from May 28, 2015 approved with minor corrections.

The minutes from June 15, 2015 were approved as amended.

**3. Chair's Remarks**

Chair Miller reported that President Killeen requested suggestions through the shared governance process for the acting chancellor position.

**4. Chancellor's Remarks**

Acting Chancellor Wilson stated that she cares deeply for this campus and that was part of her reason for accepting the position of Acting Chancellor. Wilson spoke of big challenges going forward and was excited to work directly with the Senate again. Wilson worked closely with the Senate when she was in the Office of the Provost. Wilson served as an ex officio of the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP) and also served on the Seventh Senate Review Commission.

Wilson spoke about her position as Acting Chancellor while still holding the deanship in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS). Wilson noted that she cannot do both positions at the same time and Brian Ross has been named the Executive Associate Dean to assist with the LAS deanship. Wilson plans to spend about 10% of her time working with Ross.

Wilson believes communication is more about listening than speaking and pledged to be as open and transparent as possible. And also to include as many voices as possible in her decisions.

Wilson noted two critical issues she felt could be addressed through shared governance: 1.) How to communicate better with the campus and 2.) How do we move ourselves forward in terms of collaboration and trust?

Wilson is open to suggestions for the interim provost position in light of Ilesanmi Adesida's resignation as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The position will need to be filled quickly. Chair Miller offered to be a conduit for suggestions from the Senate.

## 5. Old Business

### A. SC.15.12 Open Access to Research Articles

Chair Miller reported that former Senate Committee on the Library Chair Mary Mallory would submit a written report on the Open Access to Research Articles policy before the next SEC meeting.

### B. SC.15.13 Background Checks

Benmamoun reported that the Board of Trustees (BOT) will approve a background check policy very soon and are working on an implementation plan. Stone added that the policy will go before the Governance, Personnel, and Ethics Committee of the BOT on August 27 and before the full BOT on September 10 with projected implementation on October 5.

Stone reported many comments on the need to keep the process as private as possible. The adjudication process for security sensitive positions is being used as the model for the new adjudication process that will also include faculty voices. Academic Human Resources (AHR) is working with the Office of the Provost to select faculty to participate. Benmamoun noted that activity on a background check report does not preclude a person from being hired.

Stone stated that a standard background check will be used which does not include credit history. Verification of education credentials and work history will remain a task of the search committee, not the outside vendor. Benmamoun added that the number and types of applicants will be monitored to ensure the new background policy is not discouraging applicants from applying.

GUP Chair Burbules noted that the list of concerns GUP compiled was sent to the Office of the Provost and to the University level human resources office. O'Brien suggested consulting with the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) since they have extensive experience with background checks. Benmamoun replied that he plans to contact AAUP, but has not at this time.

### C. SC.15.14 Assessment of the *ad hoc* Licensing Advisory Committee

GUP Chair Burbules noted the assessment of the Licensing Advisory Committee (LAC) as an item carried forward from last academic year. When GUP has the opportunity to convene meetings, the LAC will be assessed and the committee will report recommendations to the SEC.

### D. SC.15.15 International Programs and Studies Name Change

Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) Chair Francis noted that the name change was recently discussed by the committee and should have information to report at the next regular SEC meeting.

## 6. New Business

### A. SC.16.03 Chancellor Search Process

The process document (SC.11.07) used the last time there was a chancellor search was distributed. Graber reviewed her files from when she was a previous chair of the Senate Committee on Committees and noted that the process included sending a massmail to the campus and to the DDDH (Deans, Directors, and Department Heads) listserv asking for input and willingness to serve on the search committee for a Chancellor. Committee on Committees put together a slate of candidates to the Senate that was balanced and diverse, and the Senate voted on that slate of nominees. Maher noted that the process document is an SEC document and could therefore be revised by the SEC. Maher added that election of the membership of the search committee was done electronically. A current process document would need to be approved at the September 21 Senate meeting. Miller advised the SEC that the process cannot begin until President Killeen sends a letter requesting the process to begin.

Hart made a motion to use an electronic means for nominations and voting. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The motion to use electronic voting was approved by show of hands.

Lear moved to have an emergency Senate meeting if needed to keep the process moving as quickly as possible. The motion was amended to include emergency SEC meetings as well. The motion was seconded and was approved by show of hands.

Graber made a motion to refer the process document to the Committee on Committees with a specific recommendation to include provisions for electronic voting. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The motion was approved by show of hands.

**B. SC.16.04 2015 CIC Faculty Governance Leadership Conference Sept 23-25**

Illinois is hosting the CIC conference this year. A topics survey has been sent to the CIC member institutions. Chair Miller invited SEC members to suggest topics and also to attend the conference sessions.

**C. SC.16.05 Seventh Senate Review Commission Implementation Committee**

The Senate Committee on Committees will create a slate of nominees to put before the full Senate.

**D. SC.16.06 Proposed Code of Conduct for SEC Members**

Aminmansour drafted a code of conduct for SEC members and the draft document was included in the meeting materials. Aminmansour noted that the document contained his thoughts and he was open to suggested changes to the document. Some felt the document was too restrictive on communications. Others felt conversations that provided advice on important topics should at least be reported to the SEC. Concern was expressed that a two-tiered shared governance structure had emerged during the Salaita discussions. Aminmansour noted that the discussions surrounding Salaita should have been brought to the attention of the SEC. There needs to be further discussion on what went wrong and how to avoid it in the future. Conversations need to be open and inclusive. A robust discussion continued.

Lear made a motion to advance to item G, RS.16.01, on the agenda. The motion was seconded, approved and the meeting advanced to agenda item G.

**E. SC.16.07 Learning Lessons from the Last Year**

None.

**F. SC.16.08 Campus-wide Advice on the Proper use of Electronic Communications for University Business**

None.

**G. RS.16.01 Resolution Concerning the Formation of an ad hoc Committee on Conduct by Senators in Off-the-Record Advice to Campus Administrators**

As one of the resolution sponsors, Steinberg, introduced the resolution. Discussion followed.

The purpose of the ad hoc committee in the resolution was discussed. Is the committee to investigate if there was a violation of procedures and ethics or is the committee to determine what the procedures are?

In response to the suggestion of a positive only resolution, some felt that a positive only resolution would not regain trust in the Senate or faith in the processes. Proper procedures of shared governance and transparency need to be restored.

Comments were made to encourage identifying the specific issues and to outline exactly what should be done in response to those issues. Mistakes were made and lessons need to be learned from those mistakes. McDuffee, co-author of the resolution, noted that it is critical to keep the “whereas” clauses in order to provide context. We do not know where we are going unless we know where we have been.

Questions were raised about the authority or lack of authority the Senate has on ethics violations, and suggestions were made to remove mentions of ethics violations from the resolution. The university has a University Ethics and Compliance Office that investigates potential ethics violations, and ethics investigations are not under the purview of the Senate.

Wilson appreciated the discussion and encouraged frank discussions about the challenges, anger, and lack of trust. Wilson also suggested possibly distributing Provost Communication 27 that is about the principles of shared governance more widely on the campus.

Lear noted that senators cannot be barred from voting on composition of the ad hoc committee as suggested by the resolution. Student Body President Dickey requested that students be included in the membership of the suggested ad hoc committee.

**H. SC.16.09 Presidential Retreat for USC**

Burbules, as chair of the University Senates Conference (USC), noted that USC is scheduled to discuss the topic and Burbules will report to the SEC once the USC discussion is concluded.

**I. SC.16.10 Athletics Allegations**

Wheeler reported that two of the three investigation reports are available on the Office of the Chancellor website and the third investigation is underway.

**J. SC.16.11 Freedom of Expression Letter from FIRE**

Graber directed members to the letter in the meeting packet that she received from FIRE (Foundation for Individual Rights in Education). The letter called for endorsement of the University of Chicago's Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression. Burbules made a motion to refer the letter to the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AFT). The motion was seconded and approved by voice.

**K. SC.16.12 Coal Divestiture**

None.

**7. Announcements/Verbal Reports for Information**

**A. Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits update on Pensions**

Miller reported on behalf of Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits Chair Kindt that the Illinois Supreme Court's May ruling finding the state's 2013 pension reform law unconstitutional will not be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**B. Observer at the BOT meeting on September 10, 2013**

None.

**C. Mumps Outbreak**

Dr. Palinkas reported approximately 100 cases of mumps state-wide with approximately 90 from Champaign County. Of those in Champaign County, almost all have been connected to the University of Illinois. Illinois is the epicenter of a mini outbreak. Cases of mumps will continue, including the three cases presented just today. Dr. Palinkas encouraged everyone born after 1956 to get vaccinated at the Illini Union this coming Wednesday and Thursday. A massmail was sent to the campus with the details on the times the vaccination would be available. He noted that the lines may be long, but this vaccination is important. Most of the cases presented have had two of the MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) blended vaccinations, which is why it is important to receive the third booster.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31pm.

Jenny Roether  
Clerk of the Senate